

~~SECRET - EYES ONLY~~
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22 April 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon, 22 April 1959

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Mr. Dulles, Mr. Gray, Mr. Harr, Mr. Irwin,
Mr. McCone, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Saccio, Mr. Scribner, Mr. Smith

1. Tibet

The DCI informed the Board of the latest developments reported from Tibet, with particular reference to the possibility that large groups of refugees may cross into India without any advance warning to the Indian government. There was some discussion of the implications of this, particularly the fact that quantities of food might be required on short notice. It was pointed out that the Tibetans have close racial and cultural ties with certain of the mountain peoples of this area of India, and it was generally agreed that the best thing for all concerned would be if the refugees could somehow settle into the community and avoid, to the extent practicable, the establishment of any sort of refugee camps.

2. Road in Yemen

Mr. Murphy asked the Board's opinion of a proposal to explore the possibility of using PL 480 Egyptian pounds to help finance the construction of a road in Yemen, which would be built under Egyptian auspices. The Board agreed that the U.S. Embassy in Cairo should look into the matter further and that there was no objection in principle to assisting in this way. The Board saw no objection to association with the Egyptians, provided the project was not a joint one.

3. UN Committee on Outer Space

Mr. Harr inquired as to the status of a U.S. position in preparation for the meeting of the UN ad hoc Committee on Outer Space, which will resume its meetings on 6 May. Mr. Murphy said that the State Department hopes to have a paper ready for the U.S. space council on April 27.

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4. Singapore

The Board discussed the political situation in Singapore briefly and noted that Communists and Communist sympathizers are having increasing success with their propaganda in that country.

5. Chinese Ideographic Photo-composing Machine

Mr. Irwin reported on the latest plans for announcing the invention of the Chinese composing machine, which had been mentioned by Mr. Herter at the meeting of 21 January 1959. Mr. Irwin said that efforts will be made to keep the existence of the prototype machine as confidential as possible and that formal announcement is planned for 10 June. The Board agreed that this device will have great impact in the Far East, and that it can probably be adapted to Japanese as well as Chinese. It was agreed that an ad hoc working group should consider how best to handle the public information aspects of the invention.

6. Religious Services in the Navy

Mr. Irwin reported that cold war strategists in the Navy have felt that some benefit might be obtained by letting it be known that religious services were not overlooked during the course of the recent U.S. naval maneuvers in the Pacific (Sea Demon). There appeared to be some feeling among Board members that this does not necessarily provide a very effective psychological warfare weapon.

7. Possible Use for Ellis Island

Mr. Harr reported that the People-to-People Committee has been investigating the possibility of sponsoring an institute for training Americans going abroad in non-official jobs. He said that there is some thought of obtaining Ellis Island for this purpose, rather than allowing it to be sold to a private commercial enterprise.


ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

1 MAY 1959

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